

BEATRICE

FIRE & RESCUE



Annual Report

2001

Fire Department Personnel



Chief Terry Burger



"A" Shift



Inspector John Carrel



"B" Shift



Secretary Shirley Parde



"C" Shift

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Notable Changes and Improvements 2001

An automatic vehicle exhaust system was installed by Fire Department personnel during the year that connects four of our apparatus to a central exhaust system that allows the exhaust fumes to be safely evacuated from the building. It has been budgeted for, and the parts are ordered, to connect two more pieces of apparatus in the coming year. This will provide our personnel as well as other City personnel a safer and healthier environment in which to work.



Thanks to a very generous donation of some used weight equipment by the YMCA and to donations of equipment by Fire Department personnel, the firefighters now have a well-equipped fitness room that will help them keep physically fit. Being in good physical condition is imperative to perform the rigorous task of fighting fires and handling other emergencies. The remodeling of the fitness room was performed by Fire Department personnel.

The Fire Department purchased two used helmet-mounted "Thermal-Imaging" cameras this past year. These cameras allow firefighters to see hot spots or find victims through dense smoke. The cost of both used cameras was less than the budgeted amount approved for one new one.

(photo at right shows a person visible in dense smoke)



- In December 2001, we upgraded to a new "Windows-based" ambulance billing software that will prepare us for major changes in Medicare this coming year. We also upgraded our fire and EMS call reporting software in November 2001 to comply with the State Fire Marshal's Office software that was upgraded recently. This will allow us to continue reporting our fire calls to the State for statistical purposes.
- During the last budget year (2000/2001), we had funds budgeted for, and have ordered a new Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle that should be delivered soon. This vehicle will replace a 1976 Chevy Step Van. The new vehicle will provide our personnel with a larger, better-equipped and more reliable piece of apparatus to more safely and efficiently respond to hazardous materials emergencies. We are looking forward to its arrival.

Personnel Changes and Promotions



Due to the resignation of Darrell Eastin in August, Terry Burger, a Beatrice native and a 30 year veteran of the Beatrice Fire Department, was appointed to the position of Fire Chief in September 2001. Terry has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Fire Administration, an Associates Degree in Fire Protection Technology and an Associates Degree in Construction Science, with 28 years experience as a Fire Captain.

Due to the appointment of Terry Burger as Chief, Brian Daake, an 11-year veteran of the Beatrice Fire Department, was promoted to the position of Fire Captain. Brian has an Associate's Degree in Fire Protection Technology and is a fire service instructor for the State Fire Marshal's Training Division and Southeast Community College. This past summer, he graduated from an International Technician-Level Haz-Mat school at the Emergency Response Center in Pueblo, Colorado. Brian has also been designated as the Beatrice Fire Department's Haz-Mat and Training Coordinator.



The firefighter's position left open by the promotion of Brian Daake was filled with the appointment of Brett Wells. He is a native of Hallam, NE, where he was self-employed in the construction business and a member of Hallam's Volunteer Fire Department. Brett and his wife moved here this summer and he worked as a Firefighter Reserve for the Beatrice Fire Department before being appointed to the full-time position of Firefighter/EMT in October 2001. Brett is currently enrolled at SCC as a paramedic student.

Due to the resignation of Rose VanEvery, Shirley Parde was appointed Administrative Secretary to the Fire Department in July 2001. Shirley is a Beatrice native, has a bachelor's degree in business and has over 25 years of secretarial experience.

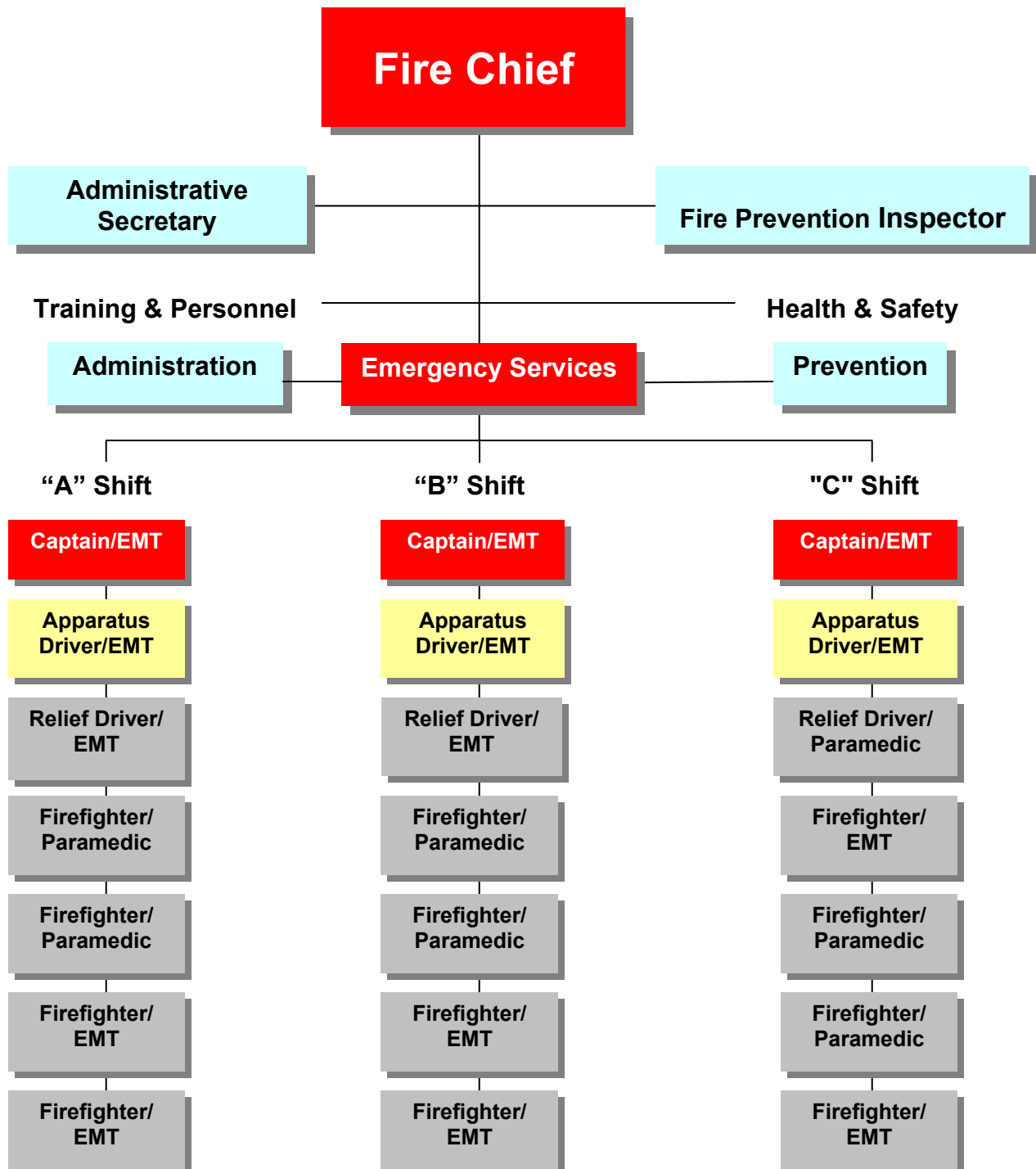


During this past year, we had three firefighters graduate and certified as Paramedics. The training consists of approx. 1000 hours of classroom and field training combined.

They are: **Julie Compton** - **Dave Heckman** - **Mike Massey**
(4-yr. Veteran) (7-yr. Veteran) (7-yr. Veteran)



Organizational Chart



Mission Statement

The City of Beatrice Fire Department's mission is to provide the highest level of emergency and non-emergency public safety services through the extension of fire prevention, fire control, rescue, emergency medical services and public fire education, and to protect life and property in an efficient and cost effective manner for the Beatrice Community.

Goals

- **Prevent the loss of life and injury; from fire-related hazards, accidents, and natural disasters.**
- **Prevent loss of property from fire and fire related activities.**
- **Provide injury prevention education aimed at managing risk areas in our community...create safer homes, promote positive health choices and address traffic injuries, falls, firearm injuries, poisoning, and burns.**
- **Prevent the loss of life and reduce injury through prompt professional delivery of emergency rescue and medical services.**
- **Increase public safety awareness among citizens through the delivery of public fire and safety education programs and public service announcements through the media.**
- **Continue to emphasize youth-directed public fire education programs in and out of our schools.**

Public Education

EVENT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fire Station tours	475
Fire Extinguisher classes	28
Fire, Rescue & EMS demonstrations/displays	250
General fire safety instruction	146
First-Aid / CPR Classes	111
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (fire safety & first-aid)	30
Fire Prevention Week "Puppet Shows"	376
"JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL" Program (5 th grade)	186
Fire Prevention Week "Open House"	Approx. 150

The Fire Department offers free home fire safety inspections and in cooperation with local service clubs, we offer free use of chimney-cleaning equipment to all citizens and free Smoke Detectors for eligible citizens. In partnership with the Board of Public Works, we also offer an Emergency Light Beacon Program.

Training

A significant portion of Fire Department personnel's time, on-duty and off-duty, is spent in preparation for emergency responses. For the safety of the citizens they serve and for their own safety, it is imperative that Department members maintain their proficiency in handling emergency operations. We also are required to comply with mandated Federal and State requirements regarding employee training and continuing education. We average over 200 hours of training per employee per year. This equates to over 5,000 hours of department training annually. Members also devote many hours per month for physical fitness training to help keep them physically fit to perform the rigorous activities of fire fighting and handling other emergency situations.

EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENT TRAINING

- EMT-AD certification
- EMT certification
- CPR certification
- Infectious control/communicable disease
- Hazardous materials
- Incident-command/Scene management
- Disaster preparedness
- Fire apparatus familiarization
- Fire/EMS equipment training
- Emergency response to terrorism
- Pediatric emergencies
- Rescue and extrication training
- Interior attack/live fires
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Records management
- Confined-space rescue
- Emergency driving
- Computer training

Fire Prevention Division

Inspections & Plan Reviews

OCCUPANCY TYPE	INSPECTIONS	PLANS REVIEWS	HOURS
Places of Assembly	45	1	2
Business	18	4	4
Care Homes	5	1	13
Day Care Facilities	31	0	0
Education	19	1	4
Health Care	3	0	0
Industrial	27	3	12
Mercantile	86	4	4
Residential (Family)	11	23	8
Residential (Commercial)	43	3	22
Storage Facilities	22	10	6.5
Other	38	0	0
TOTAL	348	50	75.5

Summary of Other Activities

ACTIVITY	# OF SESSIONS	HOURS
Misc. Administrative Duties	-----	900.5
Meetings	135	127
Calls for Service/Information	7	5.5
Citizen Complaints	6	6
Burning Complaints	0	0
Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Sessions	5	5
Public Education	2	5.5
Training	17	64.5
Fire Suppression	3	9
Fire & Fire Alarm Investigations	4	3
Rescue/Extrication	0	0
Ambulance Assist	4	3.5
Fill-in on Shift	3	3.5
Computer Technical Assistance	166	390

Hazardous Materials

The Beatrice Fire Department continues to provide a high level of emergency hazardous materials response. Captain Brian Daake serves as the new Haz-Mat Coordinator for the Department and has recently attended an International Technician-level Haz-Mat training seminar. Each member of the Department receives the required number of hours of continuing education in hazardous materials response annually. The Department continues to maintain compliance with current mandated Federal and State requirements. This requires a great deal of effort in training and in maintenance of the related equipment.

In the past few years the Department has signed contracts with numerous industries to provide required hazardous materials incident response services. This has greatly increased the Department's responsibilities in this area.

In 2001 the Department responded to 29 Hazardous Materials incidents, which is three more than a year ago. This accounted for approx. 4.5% of fire suppression activities for the year. Leaks and spills of combustible and/or hazardous liquids and gases make up the majority of these responses.

This past year was again, fairly uneventful, due to the Department's quick and efficient responses to minor incidents, keeping them from becoming larger and more dangerous ones.

Vehicle & Bldg. Maintenance

Fire Department personnel spend hundreds of hours each year on vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair. The majority of this time is spent on preventative maintenance for the Department's apparatus and all of the fire, rescue and EMS equipment that is carried on each piece of apparatus. It is imperative that our equipment be ready for the next emergency and that it remains functional. Fire Department personnel also perform most of the maintenance to our facility. This past year, Fire Department personnel installed a new vehicle exhaust system for evacuating vehicle exhaust from the building. They also demolished and then remodeled an existing room that now houses the Fire Department fitness center.

Comparison Summary of Activity

1997 - 2001

Fire/Explosion

TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Commercial Fire	2	3	10	4	19
Residential Fire	20	15	17	18	8
Fire Outside Structure	2	1	8	3	2
Vehicle Fire	20	38	13	27	24
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	78	20	34	41	28
Refuse Fire	14	14	11	10	10
Explosion, No Fire	1	0	0	0	0
Outside Spill W/Fire	0	1	1	0	0
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	3	2	2	1	4
TOTAL	140	94	110	104	95

Emergency Medical

Rescue Call	23	19	24	29	81
Emergency Medical Call	65	92	152	86	134
Lock – In	1	0	0	0	0
Extrication	44	16	12	11	17
Rescue Call, Unclassified	4	60	94	110	2
TOTAL	137	187	282	236	234

Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	1	1	1	0	3
Gas Rupture	3	1	0	0	0
Hazardous Condition	3	6	0	3	1
Spill/Leak, No Fire	23	20	18	18	18
Explosive/ Bomb Removal	0	1	0	0	0
Excessive Heat	1	2	1	0	0
Power Line Down	4	5	2	2	2
Arcing/Electrical Short	10	5	1	2	3
Chemical Emergency	1	1	0	0	0
Hazardous Condition, Unclassified	1	3	0	0	2
TOTAL	47	45	23	25	29

Comparison Summary of Activity

1997-2001

Public Service Assist

TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Lock-Out	0	1	0	0	0
Service Call	15	6	16	14	41
Smoke/Odor Removal	0	3	0	1	11
Assist Law Enforcement	4	5	1	6	6
Unauthorized Burning	1	0	1	0	0
Cover Assignment	8	16	10	6	3
Service Call, Unclassified	1	8	7	8	4
Good Intent Call	18	20	19	21	48
Smoke Scare	40	35	35	30	29
Animal Rescue	0	0	0	1	0
Controlled Burning	3	3	4	3	1
Vicinity Alarm	6	2	0	2	5
Mistaken for Smoke	3	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	103	135	110	114	151

False Calls

False Call	30	29	32	39	53
Malicious/Mischievous Call	7	3	1	5	1
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	0	0	0	1	0
System Malfunction	17	22	17	23	27
Unintentional Call	43	53	40	27	49
TOTAL	102	114	93	101	130

Unclassified Calls

Undetermined	1	0	1	1	4
Situation, Unclassified	3	2	5	6	6
TOTAL	4	2	6	7	10

GRAND TOTALS	533	577	624	587	649
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Fire Response Summary

1997-2001

STATISTIC	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
TOTAL FIRES	140	94	110	104	95
TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$122,015	\$263,463	\$262,210	\$530,082	\$64,005
TOTAL SAVED (Value)	N/A	\$831,537	\$6,946,366	\$3,743,669	\$2,376,055
NUMBER OF FIRE DEATHS	0	2	0	0	0
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	0	1	3	1	1
CIVILIAN INJURIES	0	1	3	3	0
BUSIEST MONTH	March	May	Dec.	March	April
BUSIEST DAY	Monday	Monday	Friday	Wed.	Wed.
BUSIEST TIME	3-3:59 PM	2-2:59 PM	5-5:59 PM	3-3:59 PM	4-4:59 PM
AVG. RESPONSE TIME	3.79 min.	3.38 min.	3.64 min.	3.42 min.	3.41 min.
MUTUAL AID CALLS	86	46	55	61	79

Mutual-Aid Responses

TYPE OF MUTUAL-AID CALL	NUMBER OF CALLS
Ambulance Assist	0
Assist Police/Sheriff	0
Controlled Burn	0
Emergency Medical	8
Extrication	6
False Call	3
Fire/Explosion, Not Classified	2
Fire-Outside of Structure	0
Good Intent Call	3
Refuse Fire	4
Rescue Call, Unclassified	3
Service Call	1
Smoke Scare	1
Spill/leak – No ignition	0
Structure Fire	18
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire	16
Type of Situation/Not Classified or Determined	2
Vehicle Fire	12
TOTAL MUTUAL-AID CALLS	79

Ambulance Service

Types of Calls 1997-2001

TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Medical	309	317	466	401	549
Trauma	167	166	179	166	80
Vehicular	91	76	53	61	66
Medical/Cardiac	110	65	83	46	54
In-town transfer	143	155	195	151	117
Out-of-town transfers	295	267	374	396	414
No transport-vehicular	159	140	93	48	41
No transport-medical/trauma	89	98	129	108	141
Standby	37	29	32	35	26
Mutual-Aid					8
Other				6	5
TOTAL EMS RESPONSES	1402	1315	1605	1418	1501
EMERGENCY RESPONSES	868	810	590	670	727
NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES	534	505	1015	748	750
MISC/OTHER EMS RESPONSES					24
NO TRANSPORTS				197	221

- **Most Common Age of Patient** 80-89 years of age
- **Busiest time of Day** 12:00 – 12:59 P.M.
- **Most Common Reasons for Call**
 1. Chest Pain
 2. Dyspnea
 3. Respiratory Distress
 4. Hip Pain

Ambulance Financial Report

January 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001

Total Billed Out	\$328,212
Total Collected	\$239,063
Percentage Collected (annualized)	72.8%